

WASHINGTON, DC—Today the House of Representatives voted against a measure put forth by the majority party to raise the nation's debt limit—knowing that it would fail to gain the necessary two-thirds of members needed to pass under the veto-proof suspension rules on the House Floor—in an effort to force through their plans to end Medicare and protect the Bush tax cuts. Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, voted against the measure and released the following statement:

**"The last thing our country needs is economic brinksmanship. Instead of leading with sensible policy, Congressional Republicans are threatening to default on our bills unless their demands to end Medicare and make permanent the Bush tax cuts for the richest Americans are met.**

**When families balance their checkbooks, they do so responsibly—paying the mortgage and credit card bills, investing in their retirement funds and children's education, and cutting out unnecessary spending everywhere else. They don't play games with their finances or their children's future, and they expect the same from their elected representatives."**

Before the vote, Rep. Becerra delivered remarks on the floor of the House: